



Heffer's
Bookshop,
Petty
Cury
1962

152.47

Cambridge BOOKS Chronicle

Articles relating to book selling, printing and publishing (but not Cambridge University Press in detail), 1888-1990

1896

1896

Gustave David sets up book stall on Market Hill (by 1912 he is described as 'an institution') 59 05 07 [1.17]

1899

1899 'Bowes & Bowes' name established 86 10 16 [2.2]

1902

1902 02 01

A new branch of trade has been opened by the buttery of Christ's college, Cambridge in the direction of a stationery store. The CDN has been favoured with samples, but the party had omitted to enclose his name or even say when he intends to "call for orders". This omission is either intentional or points to a certain amateurism pardonable in a new venture. The samples are small post quarto Club writing paper priced at 1s.6d. per 5 quire packet; envelopes 1s.3d per 100 and writing paper with the college arms embossed in blue at 2s. Can any Cambridge stationer improve on these quotations? CDN 1902 02 01

1904

1904

Mechanised typesetting introduced by Cambridge Express Newspaper Co Ltd, 1st in Cambridge to install monotype 60 10 08 [3.2]

1907

1907 08 10

Messrs Macmillan and Bowes, the well-known booksellers, have recently acquired the house over their premises at the corner of Trinity Street. On the new staircase, designed by Mr T.D. Atkinson, hangs a portrait of 'Maps' (John Nicholson) and old views of Cambridge. In the new reading room are exhibited manuscripts and autograph letters from Wordsworth, Tennyson and Thackeray. One room is devoted entirely to Cambridge material of which Mr Bowes published a catalogue in 1894. 07 08 10 & a [1.13]

1908

1908 06 05

Quite recently, the Burlington Press, which for a number of years carried on business in East Road, has removed to larger premises at Foxton. Dr Briggs, the founder of the business as an adjunct of the University Correspondence College entertained the entire staff to dinner inside the works and proposed a toast of 'Success to the University Tutorial Press' CWN 08 06 05 p6

1911

1911

Heffers printers begin Hills Rd 61 01 14 [3.5, 4.2]

1911 03 03

The Black Bear Press was started by Mr Dixon, a printer and stationer, with premises in Hills Road and machinery had been bought. It had been placed on the Paris Bourse stock exchange but this had proved unsuccessful and had accepted contracts at unremunerative prices. They had now sold the printing plant and machinery as well as "The Gownsmen" but not "The Hairdresser" or "The Cambridge Directory" and there were shares in the Maxwell Publishing Company, for whom they did printing, creditors were told. 11 03 03b

1912

1912 03 08

Assistant Booksellers Association formed – 12 03 08e

1913

1913 11 28

Frederick W. Metcalfe was head of the printing and publishing firm of Metcalfe & Son on the corner of Green Street which at one time produced most of the publications emanating from Cambridge. Soon after he joined the firm the Cambridge Express was started and he had charge of this popular newspaper until his father's death when it was purchased by the Conservative party. He ran a local troupe of Christy Minstrels including the finest voices amongst the senior members of college choirs. It had a very successful career for several seasons and visited all the principal towns in the area 13 11 28 p7 CIP

1914

1914 12 11

Deighton Bell now a limited company 14 12 11

1916

1916 03 22

Death of Ald. W. P. Spalding. He was the eldest son of a printer, stationer and bookseller, Mr. William Spalding (Ipswich), and was apprenticed to his father. He started business in Cambridge on his own account in Sidney Street, Cambridge, in 1873. This prospered and was enlarged in many ways, and in 1881 he became a member of the Cambridge Town Council, proving an expert debater and administrator. Mr. Spalding was elected to the aldermanic bench and in 1908 was chosen Mayor in succession to his friend, Mr. H. G. Whibley. He had been appointed a J.P. in 1897. During 35 years

of faithful public service, Ald. Spalding left his mark in many ways upon the affairs of the borough 16
03 22 CIPof

1916 07 22

Two booksellers – C.P.Porter & Leavis - help unemployed man, one supplies books the other a
barrow, books sold at 1/- each [1.16]

1919

1919 02 12

Robert Bowes, bookseller – obituary – 19 02 12d, photo 12g

1920

1920 11 04

Bookbinders Union branch reopened 1917 after being closed for 50 or 60 years; three years ago
average wage very low and negotiations had taken place. Employees resisted minimum wage for
women; 60 women had been on strike for a fortnight - CDN 20 11 04

1920 12 08

W.H. Smith dinner staff includes J.F. Ballinger, bookstall manager at Cambridge station – memories –
Ch 20 12 08c

1922

1922

University Press celebrates 400th anniversary of first Cambridge printing press [1.6.]

1923

1923 05 26

Cambridge is justly proud of its business veterans, and it may truly be said that no one is held in
higher respect than Mr William Heffer. He started as a groom but resolved to make a start in business
on his own, and opened as a stationers and newsagents in a shop which is still his, the Post Office in
Fitzroy Street. It has been said that Mr Heffer to a large extent altered the character of Fitzroy Street,
for when he introduced to Cambridge the 25% discount off books, university men and others not
accustomed to frequenting that part of the town, began to stream up there, and, of course, other
tradesmen - benefited in consequence c 23 05 26

1925

1925 06 06

Very many residents of Cambridge who in their leisure moments wander round the Market Place to
see what literary treasure may there be picked up will be interested in a movement set on foot by
prominent members of the University to do honour to Mr G. David, the well-known bookseller, who
has had a stall there for close on thirty years. A luncheon will be given in the Old Combination Room,
Trinity college in appreciation of the conspicuous service he has rendered to 25 06 06 [1.2]

1927

1927 02 19

Nicholson's publish sketch of David [1.12]

1927 07 08

Messrs Galloway and Porter, Cambridge, whose business operations extend to all parts of the world,
have formed a private limited company. Mr Charles P. Porter, for many years sole proprietor,
becomes chairman. He is well known as a Cambridge councillor and was formerly chairman of the
Free Library Committee. His clients range from queens to factory boys and include foreign and
colonial libraries extending to every part of the globe. 27 07 08

1929

1929 12 05

Heffer's wonderful new shop in Petty Cury, Cambridge, is a book lovers' paradise. In the basement are 'remainders' at reduced prices while the ground floor is devoted to the latest publications and an extensive foreign literature section. A wide range of second-hand volumes occupies most of the first floor where connoisseurs of original editions will find much to interest them at prices from £5 to £250. On the second floor are oriental, foreign travel and fine art books while higher still are Heffer's own publications, many of local interest. There is a special reference department and out-of-print books service. The front design successfully combines an old-world impression with a modern style. 29 12 05

1930

1930 01 15

From modest beginnings in Fitzroy Street the history of the House of Heffer is one of continuous progress. The Printing Works on Hills Road has been considerably enlarged, last year saw reconstruction of the Petty Cury Bookshop which is now twice its original size, and this year sees the reconstruction of the Sidney Street Stationery and Art Shop. It will be a shop worthy of its central position. The new premises will have five floors, the frontage will be in the Georgian style with pilasters, fascia and columns of grey polished granite and the upper part will be faced with red Flemish bricks with Weldon stone dressings to the windows. A unique feature will be the Picture Gallery on the third floor with a barrel-shaped ceiling 30 01 15

1930 05 28

The bookshops of Cambridge are a special feature of the town; no visitor can possibly miss David's stall on the Market Place where the book-lover may pick up a bargain. He came to Cambridge in 1896 and started his career at this stall; in 1906 he took a shop in St Edward's Passage, which is full of interesting old books and though often locked can be viewed at leisure in the window. In such esteem is he held that a luncheon was held in the Hall of Trinity College and a lithograph cartoon by Mr William Nicholson presented to him. 30 05 28a & b (major feature)

1931

1931 04 17

George Brimley Bowes joined his father in the firm now called Bowes and Bowes in 1897 in the building known to be the oldest bookshop in the country. He became intimately connected with the business, as bookseller and printer and published the first works of J.B. Priestley. He founded the Cambridge branch of the T. H. and Cambridge Rotary Club. People who associate many books with mustiness should speedily make his acquaintance and be disillusioned. 31 03 27c

1931 04 17

Counc. A Spalding – profile – 31 04 17a

1931 11 06

Arthur Heffer death – folk dancing leader – 31 11 06g

1932

1932 08 19

John Austin Fabb started in business as a printer, moving to Guildhall Street in 1881 and Corn Exchange Street in 1920. He printed the Cambridge Review from its inception in 1879 and conceived the idea of a list of Resident Members of the University in 1890. During the war he compiled seven editions of the list of Cambridge University men on active service. He was a prominent Freemason and founded the York Street Sick Club. 32 08 19e

1932 12 09

J.T. Lambeth told the bankruptcy court he had started as a second-hand bookseller from a stall on Market Hill. Then he took a shop at 17 Peas Hill selling antiquarian books. But a slump in trade 18

months ago meant Americans were not buying books so he had to borrow from moneylenders. 32 12 09a & b

1933

1933 01 19

Spaldings printers sued a University lecturer over an unpaid bill for publishing 'Forestry Journal' a magazine of the Cambridge University Forestry Students' Association. He had brought in a considerable amount of copy, articles and advertisements together with photographs from which they had to make blocks. But the don claimed it was run entirely by undergraduates and it was the responsibility of the editor. He could not say who that had been. 33 01 19c & d

1933 04 26

Master printers and new CDN machinery – 33 04 26

1936

1936 02 01

G.J. Gray was born in Pembroke Street and entered the firm of Bowes and Bowes in 1876. He was encouraged by the late Robert Bowes to prosecute his bibliographical work beyond the requirements of business and his publications on Cambridge booksellers and printers won him the esteem of University librarians. In earlier life he was connected with the Higher Grade and Camden Cricket Clubs, Old Chesterton Institute and Men's Bible Class. He also organised the Penny 'Pops' concerts held in the Guildhall in years gone by. At his retirement The Publishers' Circular praised his 60 years in the book trade 36 02 01

1936 03 14

Broadsheets were once very popular in Cambridge and now Dr F. Carr of Sawston has revived the tradition with one featuring Mr David who has been selling books for 40 years. He pays tribute in a poem printed on antique paper with two admirable sketches of David and his stall by his son, Mr Hubert David. The broadsheet is published at a shilling and should make a strong appeal to the friends and customers (the words are almost synonymous) of one of Cambridge's celebrities 36 03 14a

1936 10 12

George John Gray entered the firm of Bowes and Bowes in 1876 and completed nearly 60 years' service. Encouraged by Robert Bowes he carried out bibliographical work and researches, publishing several works on early Cambridge printing and bookselling. He also indexed the William Cole manuscripts in the British Museum. Mr Gray was a member of the Library Committee, secretary of the Higher Grade Cricket Club and YMCA and organiser of the Penny 'Pops' held in the Guildhall. He also played an active part in Chesterton Institute, Cricket Club and Men's Bible Club, amongst others. 36 10 12a

1936 11 20

Gustave David, known as 'David' to generations of undergraduates has died hours after returning by the midnight train having attended a London auction. He came to Cambridge forty years ago, opening his now-famous stall on Market Hill. Later he opened a shop in Green Street before moving to St Edward's Passage. He was the first man in Cambridge to sell rare and old books at low prices. So appreciative were Universitymen of his services that in 1925 a number of distinguished members entertained him to lunch at Trinity in recognition of the 'conspicuous services he has rendered the cause of humane letters'. 36 11 20 a & b

1936 11 20

W. Heffer & sons history – Advertisers – 36 11 20c

1940

1940

Severs printing works set up [3.9]

1942

1942 05 21

Printers face wartime problems – lack of paper, increase wages etc – 42 05 21

1942 07 04

David's bookstall featured in Canadian radio broadcast, started 1886 now one of oldest on market – 42 07 04

1943

1943 12 04

Macmillan publishers and booksellers Bowes & Bowes – history by Charles Morgan – 43 12 04

1946

1946 02 01

Francis Gatward Metcalfe, head of printers and stationers, dies. Known as 'Metcalfe's' in 1730 and as Metcalfe and Palmer before then. Original premises in Green St. He joined 1884 – 46 02 01

1946 12 09

George Brimley Bowes, former head of bookshop – appreciation – 46 12 09

1946 12 14

Heffers bookshop night blaze causes £25,000 damages, CID investigate – 46 11 13; Heffer's fire arson case – 46 12 14

1949

1949

Rampant Lions Press set up by Will Carter 65 11 26 [3.11]

1950

1950 04 15

Notes on George Stoakley, bookbinder, 80 [1.7]

1951

1951

Laurence Fletcher was given the challenge of opening a new Christian book shop in Cambridge in 1951; now Mowbrays which was founded in Oxford almost 140 years ago has a world-wide reputation. At his retirement party the Bishop of Ely read a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury paying tribute to Mr Fletcher's enthusiasm and knowledge of books: "I can't imagine King's Parade without him", he wrote 88 11 16

1951 07 12

The staff of Messrs S.C. Marshall & Sons, the old established local printers, spent an enjoyable evening at the Lion Hotel to mark 25 years of printing under the present ownership. A presentation was made to Mr B.G.T. Cox for 37 years' loyal service. In a witty speech he recalled that in those days there was no electric light or power, the premises were lit by gas and the machines – such as they were – were driven by foot treadles and the posters were hand-rolled and printed on hand presses. Since 1928 fully automatic machinery and plant have been installed 51 07 12

1953

1953 03 14

The site of England's oldest bookshop has just changed hands for the 14th time in more than 350 years. Messrs W.H. Smith have acquired Bowes and Bowes' shop on the corner of Trinity Street which has a heritage of bookselling, publishing and binding that goes back as far as 1581. In 1807 it belonged to John Nicholson, son of the celebrated 'Maps' who went his rounds of the University with

a moveable stall laden with textbooks and called out “Maps and pictures”. Later Kingsley and other literary men held ‘tobacco parliaments’ on religion and politics, Wordsworth reclined there, Thackeray dined there and Tennyson first read “Maud” in the Long Room, now the Foreign Department. 53 03 14

1955

1955 01 22

Cambridge has a new publishing company. The Golden Head Press has been formed to promote the production of fine books with original subject matter that for economic reasons would normally fall outside the province of larger publishers. It has been run on a limited scale by Mr Raymond Lister but with its formation into a company the scope may be widened. The Chairman is Dr Philip Grosse, a Trinity don well known for his ‘History of Piracy’ and the secretary A.K. Astbury is a London journalist 55 01 22a [1.8]

1955 09 10

The Cambridge Express Printing Company has been acquired by W. Heffer & Sons. The ‘Express’ works have a long history. At one time they published a weekly newspaper which was eventually incorporated with the ‘Cambridge Weekly News’ which in turn amalgamated with the ‘Cambridge Independent Press and Chronicle’. 55 09 10e [1.9,4.4]

1957

1957

Heffers acquire Severs [4.4]

1957 02 23

New publishing house, P.R.Macmillan, poetry [1.11]

1957 05 06

A Penguin Bookshop has opened opposite the University Press in Trumpington Street. This is an innovation by Heffers for they will devote the entire shop to the display and sale of the thousand titles at present in print. The shop has been designed by Peter Bicknell who has preserved the pleasant original stone front whilst making the inside both gay and light. 57 04 06b

1958

1958 02 01

Harry Ingreby was the first monotype operator in Cambridge in 1904 and apart from the Great War has been at the keyboard ever since. In the early years people from the University Press would call into the Cambridge Express Printing Works in King Street to see things new in the printing line. Harry recalls the pleasure of printing ‘Granta’ and its undergraduate editors – “everything always went nice and smooth with them”, he says. 58 02 01b

1959

1959 05 05

Modern traffic problems have brought to an end a Cambridge tradition. David’s Bookstall has occupied its site on Peas Hill on Saturdays for more than 60 years but recently the street has been turned into an area where the parking of cars is prohibited during the busiest time of the day. Motorists objected that the stall took up as much space as any car so Mr Ashley Hubert David was asked if he would move his Saturday stall to its weekday position on the market square. Many customers are indignant about the change. 59 05 05 & a [1.17]

1959 11 21

Percy Piggott was owner of a printing business, a journalist, a keen Tory, an Amateur theatrical producer and a leading light in the Cambridgeshire Sailing Club. His father, Frank, founded the printing business in what was then called Caxton Court (now the front of Boots’ in Sidney Street) and

had been editor of the Cambridge Chronicle. Following in his father's footsteps he was University Correspondent for 'The Times' and official scorer of the University Cricket team, managing them on tours and producing a booklet '50 Years at Fenners' 59 11 21a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1960

Foister & Jagg, established 150 years, move from St Andrews Hill due Lion Yard to Abbey Walk [3.1, 446.8,2]

1961

1961

Heffers rebuild Hills Rd printing works [4.2]

1961 01 14

W. Heffer printers and booksellers celebrate 50 years at Hills Road – 61 01 14

1961 02 04

Heffers Printers celebrate 50 years – 61 02 04c

1962

1962 07 14

CUP install new rotary presses increasing speed 4 times [5.3]

1963

1963 05 15

In 1869 William Weatherhead purchased the business of John Hatt, a bookseller and printseller in Union Street, now Peas Hill. Then in 1886 took over an established stationers' shop in Trinity Street. The two merged at his death in 1907, added a wholesale department and flourished until 1936 when they moved to its present premises in the Caius College development on Market Hill. Now it has been acquired by W.H. Smith 63 05 15a

1963 10

CUP new building Brooklands Ave opened [2.15]

1964

1964 11 19

Marshall's printing business, Round Church Street established 1826 by Mr Wilson; were nearly destroyed by bombs in 1942; to be sold – 64 11 19e

1966

1966

F & P Piggott move Round Church street, established Caxton Court Sidney St 1881, moved Alexandra St 1916 [3.4]

1966 04 18

J.S. Wilson bookbinders since 1830, now to be run by employees – 66 04 18a

1966 10 03

Hubert David inherited business from his grandfather, Gustave, in 1936 – profile – 66 10 03

1968

1968

CALL founded, started last year as printing section NEC [4.6]

1968 08 20

David book stall on Market increases prices – feature – Davids raise price of 1/- books 68 08 20

1969

1969 02 13

W. Heffer & sons open new children's bookshop in Trinity Street, plan to move main shop from Petty Cury – 69 02 13

1970

1970 03 04

Cambridge Instantprint set up, new US idea, marks birth of new printing service (moves to Foxton, bought out Burlington 1976) [4.5]

1970 05 29

George Porter of Galloway & Porter profile – firm started in 1901 – 70 05 29b

1970 10 02

Heffers bookshop Petty Cury closes, 90,000 books moved to new Trinity Street shop – 70 10 02 [1.4,2.6]

1971

1971 02 01

John Arliss moves Histon Rd after 97 years St Tibbs Row [4.8]

1971 07 23

University Press celebrate 450 years of book printing – 71 07 23

1972

1972 09 15

Woodhead-Faulkner (Publishers) Ltd started [3.6]

1972

Melrose Press moves to Cambridge, goes to Soham 1978 [3.14]

1973

1973

Spencer Brown & co Ltd publisher set up [3.7]

1973

Heffer's shut Hills Road & transfer to subsidiary Severs, Kings Hedges Rd [3.9,4.2]

1973

Book Production Consultants set up [4.7]

1974

1974

Jean Pain bookshop opened [2.3]

1974

Oleander Press moves to Cambridge [3.13]

1974

Hobson press set up as offshoot CRAC, founded by Adrian Bridgewater (goes public 1987) [4.1]

1976

1976

500th anniversary introduction printing to England by Caxton [3.3]

1976

S-Print set up [3.10]

1977

1977 07 19

Dillons bookshop in Silver St sold (opened 1973) [2.12]

1979

1979 09 03

Grapevine bookshop opens in Fitzroy St [2,9]

1979

Pevensey Press launched [3.12]

1980

1980 Heffers start full photocomposition [4.2]

1981

1981 03 03

J.P. Gray & son moving from Green St, there since 1847 [446.12.6]

1981 05 20

Cambridge University Press's new £6 million office and warehouse complex, named the Edinburgh Building after the Duke, will be officially opened by the Queen. It has a number of unusual design features and can store up to 15 million books 81 05 20

1981 05 29

Newmarket millionaire David Robinson today announced he had given an extra £1 million to the college he founded. The news came shortly before the Queen and Prince Philip arrived in Cambridge to formally open it. But Mr Robinson did not attend the ceremony as he did not feel up to it. He is very frail. But 2,500 employees of the Cambridge University Press took tea with the Queen after she opened their new Edinburgh Building. 81 05 29, 30

1981 06 20

Sinclair Brown pub co launched [3.8]

1982

1982 07 28

More than 100 years of bookbinding comes to an end when the old established firm of John P. Gray closes down its Green Street premises. The firm was begun in 1847; it established a high reputation for the restoration and repair of ancient books and carried out special commissions for the leading private collectors. Planning permission has been obtained to turn the site into a restaurant and wine bar 82 07 28a [6.8]

1982 11 11

Equus bookshop opens, King St [2,11]

1983

1983 03 02

Woodhead-Faulkner establish new company, ICSA publishing [3.6]

1984

1984 02 06

CUP celebrate 400 years printing [5.7]

1985

1985 05 24

Heffers Penguin bookshop, Trumpington street closed [2,8]

1985 07 19

Reuben Heffer death – 85 07 19

1986

1987 04 28

One of Britain's oldest booksellers, Deighton Bell in Trinity Street, which dates back to 1700 and specialises in antiquarian and rare volumes, has been sold to nearby Heffers. It takes them back to second-hand books, a department it gave up in 1974 because of lack of space. Then they had sold their stock to Deighton Bell and had maintained a good relationship ever since. The shop will remain on the corner of Trinity Street and Green Street and continue to be run by John Beech and his staff 87 04 28 [NS2.11]

1986 07 09

W.H. Smith, a familiar sight on Cambridge Market Hill for the past 25 years is to close. Staff will be transferred to their other shops in Lion Yard and at Cambridge railway station. 86 07 09

1987 07 29

Black Bear Press was formerly known as Heffers Printers which was set by William Heffer in the 1920s. Now a new management are investing in the future. Black Bear does not produce the 'mainstream' books. Much of its work is producing journals including 'The Analyst' which has been printed by the firm for the Royal Society of Chemistry since 1922, and catalogues for Stanley Gibbons and other companies. They provide a data retrieval system when authors submit their disks and the data is transcribed into whatever printed format required. 87 07 29 [4.3]

1987 10 16

Bowes and Bowes, Cambridge's oldest bookshop, marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new. The building on the corner of Trinity Street started as a bookshop under William Scarlett in 1581. It was acquired by Daniel and Alexander Macmillan who in 1845 laid the foundations for one of the largest publishing firms in the world. It became a literary centre where figures like Thackeray and Charles Kingsley were frequent visitors. Now it has been completely redesigned and reopened under its new name of Sherratt and Hughes. 86 10 16 [2,2]

1987 11 11

Sydney Cockerell, the Grantchester bookbinder who helped preserved some of the world's most important works has died, aged 81. An expert at restoring and repairing ancient manuscripts and early books, he revived the art of marbling paper. He bound works by Wordsworth, Milton and Tennyson and he designed and tooled binding for the House of Commons Book of Remembrance and many historic volumes. He was awarded the OBE and received an honorary degree from Cambridge University. 87 11 11

1988

1988 02 20

Cambridge is set for a battle of the booksellers after news that the Waring and Gillow furniture store in Sidney Street will be refurbished as Dillons Bookstore. 88 02 20

1988 10 01

Dillon's bookstore, the largest in Britain, opens on site of old Dorothy – 88 10 01b

1988 11 16

Laurence Fletcher was given the challenge of opening a new Christian book shop in Cambridge in 1951; now Mowbrays which was founded in Oxford almost 140 years ago has a world-wide reputation. At his retirement party the Bishop of Ely read a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury paying tribute to Mr Fletcher's enthusiasm and knowledge of books: "I can't imagine King's Parade without him", he wrote . 88 11 16

1990

1990 04 17

Hobson's Publishing, Bateman Street, which has announced losses may be taken over by Daily Mail and General Investments group – 90 04 17a

1991

1991 01 10

Sherratt and Hughes, Sidney Street to close. Is part of Waterstone's Booksellers and seeking larger premises. In recent times was known as Bowes & Bowes which was owned by W.H. Smith in the 1950s and then involved in a number of mergers. Its site of the oldest bookshop – 91 01 10a